



and Natan fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention *as a whole*. Thus, independent claims 18 and 36, and all other claims that depend directly or indirectly from claims 18 or 36, should be allowed.

In making the rejection of claims 19 and 37, the Examiner has stated that “Shipwash also teaches each Raman detection unit is capable of detecting at least one nucleotide at the single molecule level (paragraph 0168).” See page 6, lines 4-6, and page 9, lines 14-16. Paragraph [0168] of Shipwash states:

[0168] Laser-induced fluorescence is generally the detection method of choice for microarray and microflow systems. There are many examples in the literature describing single molecule detection using laser-induced fluorescence as a detection method. For example, spatially resolved detection may be achieved using confocal laser scanners or high sensitivity imaging detectors such as CCD cameras.

Where does paragraph [0168] if Shipwash disclose “wherein each Raman detection unit is capable of detecting at least one nucleotide at the single molecule level” recited in claims 19 and 37? Applicants respectfully submit that the limitation of claims 19 and 37 is not disclosed in paragraph [0168] of Shipwash.

New claims 41 and 45 are supported by claims 18 and 36 and paragraph [0038] of the specification, which states “where concentrations of nucleotides 17 entering the reaction chamber 11 are known, a single detection unit 12 can be positioned downstream of the reaction chamber 11 to measure nucleotide 17 concentrations exiting the reaction chamber 11.” New claims 42-44 and 46-48 are supported by claims 37-39. New claims 49-52 are supported by paragraph [0038] of the specification, which states that the “template 13, primer 16 and polymerase 15 can be confined to the reaction chamber 11.”

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By /Raj S. Davé/

Raj S. Davé

Registration No.: 42,465

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys for Intel Corporation